

Kindly add new claims 9-12, as follows:

- A2
9. (new) An isolated and purified protein having I κ B kinase activity, I-TRAF binding activity and ability to activate NF- κ B, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2
 - (b) the protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, and
 - (c) a polypeptide which is more than 82% homologous with the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2
 10. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein according to claim 9 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 11. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, which acts on the immune response mechanism.
 12. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, which is a preventive or therapeutic agent for diseases involving the I-TRAF or the TRAF molecule.

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been cancelled, and new claims 9-12 have been added. Claim 9 includes, the language "having I κ B kinase activity", "I-TRAF binding activity" and "more than 82% homologous with the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2". No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments made to such claims. Support for the